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Eing.: 28. Feb. 2003

Frist:

MUC
PO
KW
DD
HH

Datum/Date

25.02.2003

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 560L0635	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°//Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 01122385.6-1234/
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Propriétaire Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 235 459 A (MEYER MANFRED ET AL) 10 August 1993 (1993-08-10) * abstract; figures 1,6,7 *	1,2	G02B21/00 G02B21/36
A	---	3,7,8, 12-15	
X	WO 98 14816 A (LUCAS BRIAN RONALD ;CELL ROBOTICS INC (US); CONIA JEROME (US); WOL) 9 April 1998 (1998-04-09) * abstract * * column 7, line 3 - line 6 * * column 8, line 18 - line 19 * * column 28, line 32 - line 35 * * column 29, line 1 - line 3 *	1,2	
A	---	3,7,8, 12-15	
	---	-/-	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G02B
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p>			
<p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
5	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	THE HAGUE	10 February 2003	Seibert, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	AFZAL R S ET AL: "OPTICAL TWEezERS USING A DIODE LASER" REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. NEW YORK, US, vol. 63, no. 4, 1 April 1992 (1992-04-01), pages 2157-2163, XP000300697 ISSN: 0034-6748 * section II A * * figure 1 *	1,2	
A		3,7,8, 12-15	
X	US 4 685 776 A (INOUE YASUO ET AL) 11 August 1987 (1987-08-11) * abstract; figures *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A		3,7,8, 12-15	
A	DE 721 942 C (ZEISS CARL FA) 24 June 1942 (1942-06-24) * figure *	1,2,12	
A	EP 0 770 848 A (TOPCON CORP) 2 May 1997 (1997-05-02) * figure 6 *	1-3	
A	US 5 481 401 A (KITA NOBUHIRO ET AL) 2 January 1996 (1996-01-02) * column 10, line 58 - line 67 * * column 11, line 1 - line 31 * * figures 1,4-7,9,16 *	1,2,7,8	
A	US 4 143 938 A (FEINBLOOM RICHARD E) 13 March 1979 (1979-03-13) * abstract; figures *	1,2,7,8, 12-15	
		-/-	



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 4 567 478 A (SCHWAB KLAUS) 28 January 1986 (1986-01-28) * figure 1 *	1,2, 12-15	
A	US 5 579 156 A (FALTERMEIER BERND ET AL) 26 November 1996 (1996-11-26) * abstract; figures 1,3A *	1,2, 12-15	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)			



European Patent
Office

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 01 12 2385

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-3,7,8,12-15

Inverted microscope with attachable/detachable cameras.

2. Claims: 4-6,9-11

Inverted microscope with builtin image display.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 01 12 2385

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-02-2003

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